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1889c

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

SETH LOW, LL.D.

OF THIS MINUTE THERE HAVE BEEN
PRINTED ONE COPY, SIGNED, FOR
PRESENTATION TO MR. LOW
AND ONE HUNDRED COPIES
FOR DISTRIBUTION

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

SETH LOW, LL.D.

MDCCLIV THE LIBRARY OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY MDCCCCV

MINUTES ADOPTED BY THE TRUSTEES OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK AND BY THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL ON THE RESIGNATION OF SETH LOW, LL.D. AS PRESIDENT

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AT A STATED MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK, HELD AT THE COLLEGE ON THE SEVENTH DAY OF OCTOBER, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND ONE, THE FOLLOWING MINUTE WAS ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE :

THE TRUSTEES HAVE HEARD WITH THE DEEPEST REGRET THAT MR. LOW HAS DETERMINED TO RESIGN THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THIS UNIVERSITY. THEY APPRECIATE, HOWEVER, THE PATRIOTIC PURPOSES WHICH HAVE INDUCED HIM TO RETIRE FROM HIS PRESENT POST; AND RECOGNIZE THE DELICACY AND UNSELFISHNESS WHICH HAVE DICTATED HIS REQUESTS THAT

HIS RESIGNATION BE CONSIDERED FINAL AND THAT IT BE ACCEPTED TO TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY. REQUESTS SO MADE CANNOT BE IGNORED OR REFUSED, AND THE TRUSTEES HAVE THEREFORE FELT CONSTRAINED TO COMPLY WITH MR. LOW'S WISHES AND TO ACCEPT HIS RESIGNATION AT THIS PRESENT MEETING. IN SO DOING, THEY DEEM IT PROPER TO ENTER UPON THEIR MINUTES A RECORD OF THEIR AFFECTIONATE REGARD FOR MR. LOW PERSONALLY, AND OF THEIR HIGH OPINION OF THE VALUE OF HIS SERVICES TO THE UNIVERSITY.

MR. LOW HAS NOW SERVED AS TRUSTEE FOR TWENTY YEARS. HE HAS SERVED AS PRESIDENT FOR EXACTLY TWELVE YEARS, HAVING BEEN ELECTED OCTOBER THE SEVENTH,

EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE—A PERIOD MARKED BY MOST IMPORTANT CHANGES, WHICH MAY FAIRLY BE SAID TO HAVE CREATED A NEW COLUMBIA. A GREAT UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN ORGANIZED OUT OF A GROUP OF SCATTERED AND UNRELATED SCHOOLS. IT HAS BEEN MOVED TO NEW AND GENEROUS QUARTERS THAT WORTHILY ACCOMMODATE IT, AND THAT INVITE THE LARGE EXPANSION WHICH IS CERTAINLY BEFORE IT. IT HAS ESTABLISHED INTIMATE AND SATISFACTORY AFFILIATIONS WITH BARNARD COLLEGE AND TEACHERS' COLLEGE. ITS EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION IS THOROUGH AND EFFECTIVE; A STRONG, ENTHUSIASTIC COMMON LIFE NOW PERVADES AND INSPIRES EVERY PART; THE NUM-

BER OF ITS TEACHERS AND STUDENTS WAS NEVER SO LARGE; ITS EDUCATIONAL PRESTIGE WAS PROBABLY NEVER HIGHER; AND IN EVERY QUARTER, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY, THE UTMOST GOOD WILL PREVAILS.

SUCH A RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT TELLS ITS OWN STORY OF THE HEAD OF THE UNIVERSITY; BUT IT WOULD BE A MOST INCOMPLETE ACCOUNT THAT FAILED TO MAKE SOME REFERENCE TO MR. LOW'S EXTRAORDINARY AND UNWEARIED GENEROSITY. AT HIS OWN COST HE HAS BUILT THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY BUILDING; HE HAS ESTABLISHED TRUST FUNDS FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF STUDY AND RESEARCH, AND HE HAS CONTRIBUTED IN UNNUMBERED WAYS TO

SUPPLEMENT THE FUNDS OF THE UNIVERSITY, AND TO HELP EVERY GOOD CAUSE IN WHICH ITS MEMBERS ARE INTERESTED.

THE TRUSTEES CANNOT BUT DEPLORE THE LOSS OF AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER SO ABLE, EXPERIENCED AND ZEALOUS, BUT THEY REJOICE TO LEARN THAT MR. LOW INTENDS TO CONTINUE A TRUSTEE AND THEY INDULGE THE HOPE THAT WHATEVER POST OF DUTY HE MAY HEREAFTER OCCUPY THIS BOARD WILL STILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE BENEFIT OF HIS COUNSEL.

A TRUE COPY : : : : SIGNED
WM. C. SCHERMERHORN
CHAIRMAN : : : : : : : : :
: : : : : : : : JOHN B. PINE, CLERK

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL, HELD ON THE TWELFTH DAY OF OCTOBER, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND ONE, THE FOLLOWING MINUTE WAS ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE:

THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, CONVENED IN SPECIAL SESSION FOR THIS PURPOSE, DESIRES TO ENTER UPON ITS RECORDS A MINUTE SUGGESTED BY THE RESIGNATION OF SETH LOW, FOR TWELVE YEARS PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY.

WHEN MR. LOW BECAME THE PRESIDENT OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE, IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR MDCCCLXXXIX–XC, THE INSTITUTION

CONSISTED OF FOUR FACULTIES, IN CHARGE RESPECTIVELY OF THE SCHOOLS OF ARTS, MINES, LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE.

THESE FACULTIES NUMBERED ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-TWO OFFICERS OF INSTRUCTION; AND THESE SCHOOLS WERE ATTENDED BY ELEVEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOUR STUDENTS. THE FACULTIES WERE CONNECTED WITH EACH OTHER ONLY THROUGH THE PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEES OF THE COLLEGE; AND THE SCHOOLS EXISTED ALONGSIDE OF EACH OTHER WITHOUT ANY PRINCIPLE OR CUSTOM OF RECIPROCITY. THE LIBRARY OF THE COLLEGE CONTAINED NINETY-ONE THOUSAND VOLUMES; AND THE WEALTH OF THE CORPORATION WAS ESTIMATED AT TEN MILLIONS AND FIVE

HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS. THE FACULTIES, SCHOOLS, LIBRARY AND ENTIRE EQUIPMENT WERE CROWDED INTO THE NARROW AND NOISY QUARTERS BORDERING UPON THE TRACKS OF THE NEW YORK CENTRAL RAILWAY.

TO-DAY, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CONSISTS OF NINE FACULTIES, IN CHARGE RESPECTIVELY OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE, BARNARD COLLEGE, TEACHERS' COLLEGE, AND THE UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS OF LAW, MEDICINE, APPLIED SCIENCE, PURE SCIENCE, PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE. THESE FACULTIES NOW NUMBER THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE OFFICERS OF INSTRUCTION; AND THESE COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS ARE NOW ATTENDED BY FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED STUDENTS. THE FAC-

ULTIES ARE NOW CO-ORDINATED WITH EACH OTHER IN THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL, IN WHICH ALL THE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS OF THE UNIVERSITY ARE OFFICIALLY REPRESENTED; AND A COMPLETE SYSTEM OF RECIPROCITY BETWEEN ALL THE PARTS OF THE INSTITUTION AND ALSO WITH THE UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY NOW PREVAILS.

THE LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY NOW CONTAINS THREE HUNDRED AND ELEVEN THOUSAND VOLUMES; AND THE WEALTH OF THE CORPORATION IS NOW ESTIMATED AT EIGHTEEN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF WHICH ONE AND A HALF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, IN ROUND NUMBERS, REPRESENT THE SPLENDID GENEROSITY AND MUNIFICENCE OF MR. LOW HIMSELF. AND, FINALLY, THE UNIVER-

SITY IS NOW LOCATED UPON A SITE AND POSSESSES A PHYSICAL EQUIPMENT UNSURPASSED IN BEAUTY, COMFORT AND COMPLETENESS BY THOSE OF ANY INSTITUTION OF LEARNING IN THE WORLD.

THIS MAGNIFICENT ACHIEVEMENT, WROUGHT WITHIN THE SHORT PERIOD OF TWELVE YEARS, HAS NO PARALLEL IN THE EDUCATIONAL HISTORY OF ANY COUNTRY OR OF ANY AGE; AND NO FURTHER OR HIGHER PROOFS OF MR. LOW'S ABILITIES AS AN EDUCATOR AND AN ADMINISTRATOR THAN THE MERE RECITAL OF THESE FACTS ARE NECESSARY.

BUT MR. LOW BROUGHT TO THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE UNIVERSITY QUALITIES EVEN MORE IMPORTANT AND NEEDFUL THAN THESE INTELLECTUAL POWERS : :

FIRST AND HIGHEST AMONG THESE QUALITIES, AND MOST INDISPENSABLE, WAS THE POWER TO WIN AND TO HOLD THE FULL AND UNWAVERING CONFIDENCE AND THE CORDIAL AND ZEALOUS CO-OPERATION OF ALL HIS COLLEAGUES —A POWER WHICH CAN COME ONLY FROM AN INNATE LOVE OF TRUTH, JOINED WITH AN OPEN MIND, A HIGH SENSE OF JUSTICE, UNBENDING INTEGRITY, KINDNESS OF HEART AND GENUINE DEFERENCE IN MANNER.

EVERY OFFICER OF THE UNIVERSITY FELT THAT HIS INTERESTS AND THOSE OF HIS DEPARTMENT WERE SAFE IN THE HANDS OF MR. LOW, AND THAT NO OCCULT INFLUENCES WOULD EVER BE ALLOWED TO PREVAIL IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE INSTITUTION.

IT IS THE RECOLLECTION OF THESE RARE AND INVALUABLE TRAITS, EVEN MORE THAN OF HIS ADMINISTRATIVE ABILITIES, WHICH MAKES THE PARTING WITH HIM SO HARD AND REGRETFUL AND WHICH MOVES THIS COUNCIL TO EXPRESS THE HOPE AND WISH, FOR ITSELF AND FOR THE BODIES REPRESENTED IN IT, THAT FROM HIS SEAT IN THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY, MR. LOW MAY STILL CONTINUE TO MANIFEST HIS OLD INTEREST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY AND MAY STILL EXERT HIS GREAT POWERS IN THE PROMOTION OF ITS WELFARE.

THOUGH CONSCIOUS THAT THESE WORDS DO NOT EXPRESS WITH ANY ADEQUACY THE FEELINGS OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS BODY CONCERNING THE

OBLIGATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY AND ALL OF ITS OFFICERS TO MR. LOW, AND THEIR DEEP REGRET AT HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE PRESIDENCY, YET YOUR COMMITTEE WOULD BEG TO RECOMMEND THAT THIS MINUTE BE SPREAD IN FULL UPON THE RECORDS OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL, AND THAT THE SECRETARY BE DIRECTED TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF IT, WITH A SUITABLE LETTER, TO MR. LOW.

A TRUE COPY : : : : SIGNED
NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER
ACTING PRESIDENT : : : :
: : : : : WILLIAM H. CARPENTER
SECRETARY : : : : : : : : : : :

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TANNO LA PER-
FEZIONE MA LA
PERFEZIONE NON
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